

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00609 080723Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W

-----080726Z 068159 /22

R 071404Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5139

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USUN NEW YORK 1193

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0609

PASS USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, AF, XI, XF

SUBJ: AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT: ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT

1. TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL OF MARCH 7 CRITICIZES ARAB OIL PRODUCERS FOR INADEQUATE AID IN THE PAST AND ARGUES THAT OIL PRODUCERS OUT OF SELF INTEREST SHOULD BE GENEROUS IN AID ALLOTTED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE IN THE EDITORIAL ARE AS FOLLOWS.

---AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION COMMITTEE ENDED THREE DAYS OF TALKS IN LUSAKA LAST JANUARY WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON AMOUNT OF AID TO BE ALLOTTED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE ARAB NATIONS TURNED DOWN AFRICA'S REQUEST FOR A ROUND FIGURE COMMITMENT OF TWO BILLION DOLLARS. THE LUSAKA MEETING GAVE THE AFRICANS A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WOULD REFUSE TO BE DRAWN INTO ANYTHING SPECIFIC.

---ARABS AND THE AFRICANS NEED EACH OTHER. NEITHER GO UP, WHATEVER THEY MAY SAY PRIVATELY ABOUT THE FEAR OF COMMUNISM, COULD FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THE "MONIED WEST OR THE POORER EAST
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AS BOSON FRIEND."

---ARABS BY HELPING THE AFRICAN STATES TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, RELATED IN PART TO MASSIVE INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF OIL, WILL BE HELPING THEMSELVES IN THE LONG RUN. AFRICA'S ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN THE FUTURE GOES WITHOUT SAYING. EVEN THE WEST RECOGNIZES THIS. ALL THE AFRICAN STATES ARE ASKING IS FOR HELP TO SURVIVE THE INCREASED OIL PRICES WHICH "ARE SWELLING TO OVERFLOWING

THE COFFERS OF THE OIL PRODUCERS."

---BY INVESTING IN THE WEST THE ARABS MAY BE WISE BUT ONLY IN THE INTERIM. BASICALLY POOR COUNTRIES, THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS RIGHTFUL PLACE SEEMS TO BE ALONGSIDE THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

---AID GIVEN THUS FAR HAS BEEN INADEQUATE. IT HAS NOT HELPED THE POOREST COUNTRIES TO WITHSTAND THE EFFECTS OF THE OIL PRICE INCREASE. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT WHEN ARAB STATES SPEAK OF INCREASED ECONOMIC AID, "THEY APPRECIATE THAT THIS CANNOT BE JUST A AMIDGEN." THE ARABS ARE NOT THEIR BROTHER'S KEEPERS. HOWEVER, "THERE IS SOMETHING VAGUELY IMMORAL IN DUMPING OLD FRIENDS BECAUSE ONE CAN SUDDENLY AFFORD AN AIR CONDITION CADILLAC."
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA00609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770078-1281
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770386/aaaacyed.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 185381bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3188188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT: ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, ZA, AF, XI, XF, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/185381bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009